

Reflection on Isaiah 60:1-22
Liturgy of the Word Readings for
Jan 3, 2021
Helen Hawkins – Epiphany

This is the first year that I have given any real thought to the celebration of The Epiphany. This celebration has simply marked the end of the Christmas season for me – the time that we need to be begin taking down our Christmas decorations and putting away our manger scenes.

One definition for the word epiphany is “moment of sudden revelation or insight”. This is how the “The Epiphany” has touched me this year and will continue to touch me through out the rest of my life. One thing for sure, I will not take down my Christmas decorations until this day is over and perhaps not until the Baptism of Jesus which will be next week.

It is the beauty of today’s first reading that has opened my thoughts about the day. Over the years Dan and I have often sung Handel’s “Messiah” with the Valley Symphony Choir in Delta. As I read the First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-22), I could not help but hear the melodies of “The Messiah” in my head. In the lyrics of the alto’s aria “O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion” are the words - arise, shine your light has come, arise, arise, arise, the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you. I can also hear in my head the deep voice of some bass singing. “For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people”.

The Valley Symphony Orchestra and Choir would perform Handel’s “Messiah” a week or two before Christmas so, for me, it was the beginning of the Christmas Season. This year Dan and I listened to it after Christmas.

Needless to say, this last year has been a year that a thick darkness has covered all the peoples of the world. Whatever, difficulties, struggles and pain each person has had to carry, these problems have been greatly amplified by the cloud of this disease.

As a Lay Dominican I struggle to find my voice and the message God wants me to teach and preach. I am beginning to see that, for me, the beauty of God and His Creation is the only message I long to give to others. I do not know how I will find the way and the means to follow this path. There are many roadblocks that need to be overcome – ego, fears, doubts, learning and perfecting skills, pure and simply laziness and my ongoing struggle with what I call in myself as skimming the surface.

However, I do not despair. For I can wake up every morning of my life and hear the melody and the words in my head, “Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord shines upon you”

Below is a link to an exceptionally good performance of Handel’s Messiah

Dream Orchestra presents Handel's "Messiah", Part I (Christmas). Conducted by Daniel Suk. December 3, 2015.

Occasionally an advertisement will appear – which is very irritating.

[Handel's Messiah Part 1 \(Christmas\) - YouTube](#)